COVID-19 Situation Update for Ashe County
February 26, 2021

This document is intended to provide a regular update on the local response to COVID-19 in our communities and timely, trended data related to COVID-19. This report will be published on Fridays.

"We are excited to be able to support vaccination efforts for teachers, staff, and childcare workers in our area starting this week. Thankfully, we have been able to make major progress on our waiting list for older adults and will continue to prioritize them as we move forward. Everyone will have a spot to take their shot," stated Jennifer Greene, Health Director, AppHealthCare.

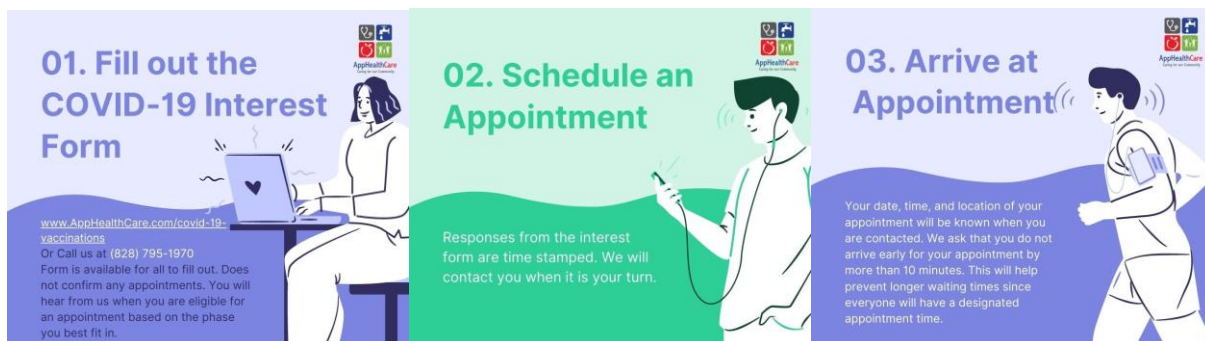**Vaccinating Makes Everyone Safer - COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

Our vaccine allocation for the week of March 1st will include 500 first doses of Moderna and 200 second doses of Moderna.

What phase are we in for Ashe County?
The active groups for vaccination are health care workers with in-person patient contact, long-term care staff and residents—people in skilled nursing facilities, adult care homes, continuing care retirement communities (Group 1), anyone 65 years or older, regardless of health status or living situation (Group 2) and child care and PreK-12 school staff (Group 3).

Steps to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine

01. Fill out the COVID-19 Interest Form

www.AppHealthCare.com/covid-19-vaccinations
Or Call us at (828) 795-1970
Form is available for all to fill out. Does not confirm any appointments. You will hear from us when you are eligible for an appointment based on the phase you best fit in.

02. Schedule an Appointment

Responses from the interest form are time stamped. We will contact you when it is your turn.

03. Arrive at Appointment

Your date, time, and location of your appointment will be known when you are contacted. We ask that you do not arrive early for your appointment by more than 10 minutes. This will help prevent longer waiting times since everyone will have a designated appointment time.

COVID-19 Vaccine Data

How many doses of vaccine do we have?

First Doses (Data as of February 25, 2021)		
Week of Feb. 22nd Allocation	**Total First Doses Received**	**Total First Doses Administered**
500	3,600	3,360

Second Doses (Data as of February 25, 2021)		
Week of Feb. 22nd Allocation	**Total Second Doses Received**	**Total Second Doses Administered**
0	2,010	1,840

The total doses of vaccine received includes the vaccine that was transferred to us from the hospital.

People Eligible for Vaccine
This is an approximate number of those who are eligible to receive vaccines in Group 1 and Group 2. These are individuals who remain on our interest form list and who we have not yet reached out to to schedule an appointment.

People Eligible for Vaccine (Data as of February 25, 2021)	
Ashe	2,487

The vaccine will be offered **free of charge to everyone** whether or not you have health insurance. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit our website here or NC DHHS's website here.

Key Points

Case Updates
For the week of February 14-20 (graphs below), there was a decrease in new cases and a small increase for the number of individuals in quarantine.
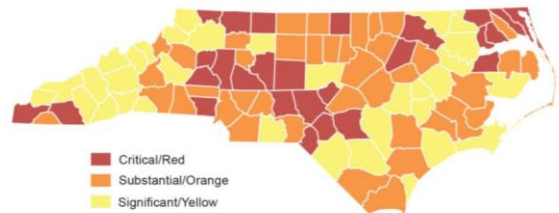
Statement from Ashe Memorial Hospital
As COVID-19 continues to impact our neighbors and surrounding counties, we encourage everyone to do their part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, washing their hands, and social distancing whenever possible. The safety and well-being of our community is our top priority. We have protocols in place to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our patients and our community.

NC DHHS County Alert System Notes Significant Community Spread for Ashe County
In the latest update, Ashe County is **YELLOW** which notes substantial community spread. This system outlines actions we can take to lessen the impact and spread in our community. You can read more about the County Alert System on NC DHHS's website.

NC Counties by Tier: Data from January 31 through February 13, 2021

Critical/Red
Substantial/Orange
Significant/Yellow

We continue case investigation and contact tracing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If you receive a call from a member of our case investigation or contact tracing team, we urge you to cooperate and provide information that will help us conduct response efforts. You may receive a call from (844) 628-7223 or (828) 264-4995. It may also show up as "NC Outreach" or "Contact Tracing." Your cell phone carrier may flag the call as spam. It is so important to answer the call of a contact tracer. It is a key tool in slowing the spread of this virus.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) levels remain stable in most areas.

Testing

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, we recommend you be tested. You can check your symptoms and determine if testing is needed. To find a testing site near you, visit NC DHHS's Find My Testing Place.

Turnaround Times for Testing remains between 2 and 4 days. NC DHHS provides data on testing turnaround times. This data is updated daily and can be found here.

Free COVID-19 Testing at AppHealthCare by Appointment. Next week we will offer testing on Monday and Thursday. Please do not just show up for testing. We request that you schedule an appointment through our website or by calling our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970.

COVID-19 TESTING

Testing is also offered by appointment at Mountain Family Care Center (336) 846-6322 (located on the campus of Ashe Memorial Hospital), CVS Pharmacy in West Jefferson, Ashe Pediatrics and other local healthcare providers may offer testing as well.

Active Outbreaks and Clusters

Data is provided for outbreaks and clusters that are active and ongoing. The number of cases for outbreaks and clusters are current as of each Thursday at 9:00am. The case counts vary day by day as new cases are identified and as cases are moved in and out of isolation. This data may not match other reported data since this is a point in time. As we conduct outbreak and case investigations, the data included in this report are subject to change. For a current case count, visit the AppHealthCare data dashboard, which is updated daily by noon.
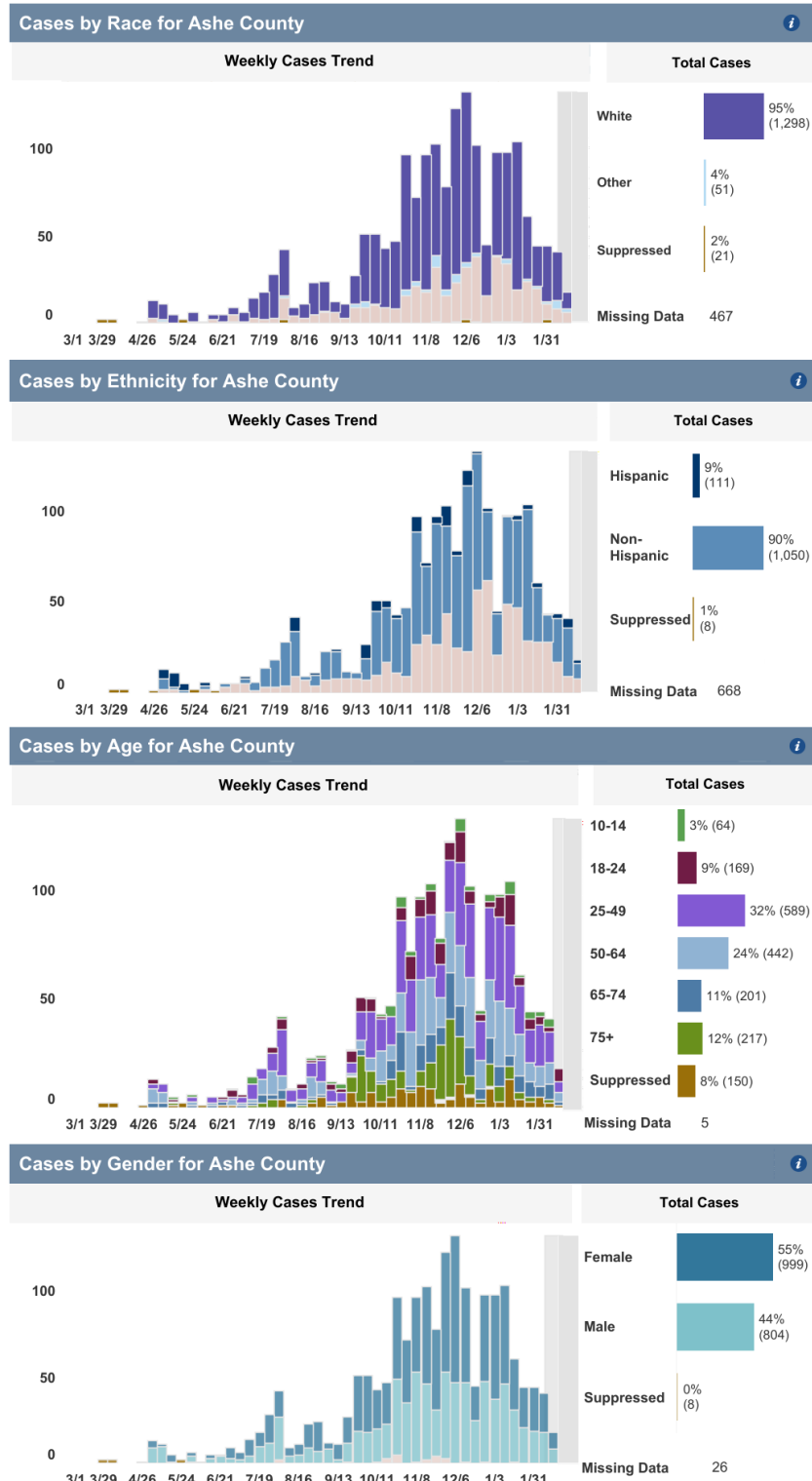
An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases. A cluster is defined as a minimum of five cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period and plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases. An outbreak or cluster is considered over if 28 days have passed after the latest date of symptom onset in a symptomatic person or first date of specimen collection from the most recent asymptomatic person, whichever is later. Additional information on the definitions of outbreaks and clusters is provided by the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services. NC DHHS also provides regularly updated information on outbreaks and clusters.

Active Outbreaks & Clusters Data is current as of Thursday, February 25, 9:00am				
Facility or Setting Type	**Facility or Setting Name**	**Active Cases**	**Cumulative Cases**	**Last Positive Result**
Long Term Care Facility	Margate Health & Rehab	0	59 staff 89 residents 18 deaths	02/08/2021

Mitigation and Response Efforts
● Ongoing testing continues to monitor the health of residents in skilled nursing facilities
● Educational outreach on COVID-19 prevention with these facilities
● Positive cases are separated from others to allow for safe isolation
● Ongoing daily health monitoring is occurring at the facilities
● Monitoring of positive cases continues with public health staff
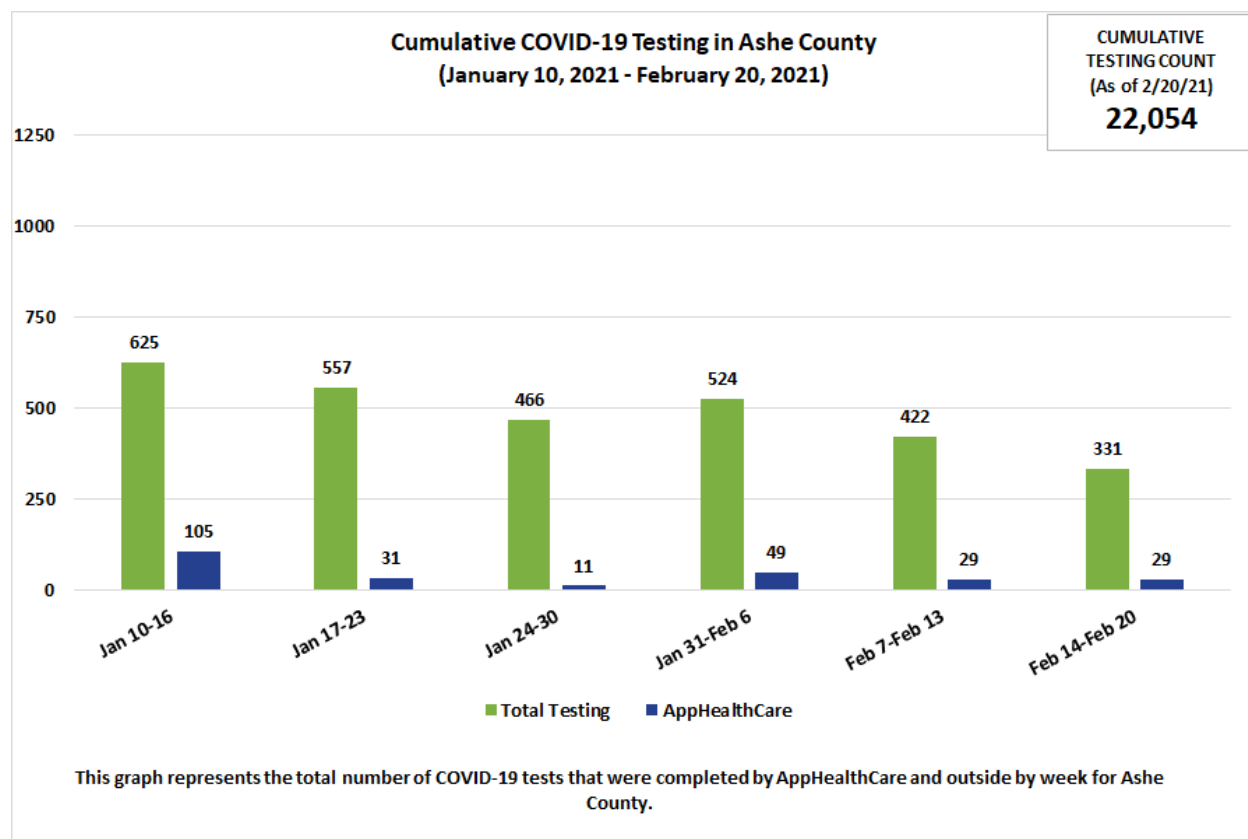
Demographic Data from NC DHHS as of February 22nd

Cases by Race for Ashe County

Weekly Cases Trend

Total Cases

White	95% (1,298)
Other	4% (51)
Suppressed	2% (21)
Missing Data	467

Cases by Ethnicity for Ashe County

Weekly Cases Trend

Total Cases

Hispanic	9% (111)
Non-Hispanic	90% (1,050)
Suppressed	1% (8)
Missing Data	668

Cases by Age for Ashe County

Weekly Cases Trend

Total Cases

10-14	3% (64)
18-24	9% (169)
25-49	32% (589)
50-64	24% (442)
65-74	11% (201)
75+	12% (217)
Suppressed	8% (150)
Missing Data	5

Cases by Gender for Ashe County

Weekly Cases Trend

Total Cases

Female	55% (999)
Male	44% (804)
Suppressed	0% (8)
Missing Data	26

February 22, 2021

Data for Ashe County

An important note about data context: The graphs below show the available data. Please carefully read the descriptions below the graph to understand the data limitations. The most current data is available on the AppHealthCare dashboard, as the data below is past data trended.
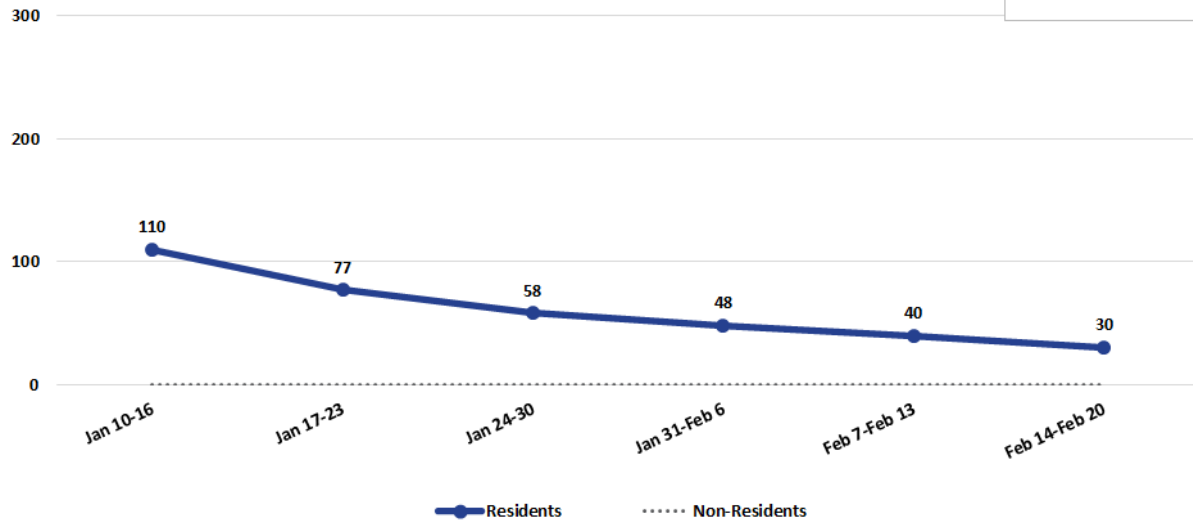
Important Disclaimer About Data

*It is imperative that this report and the data contained within is understood in the appropriate context. Please, if you use this report, please be certain that the information included within is shared within the appropriate context. Doing otherwise may be damaging to the public health response efforts. There are multiple factors involved in addressing this virus, including compliance with public health control measures implemented by the local health director and referenced in NC GS 130A. These measures are imperative for limiting the spread of COVID-19. **AppHealthCare strongly advises that when data is shared for the purposes of educating the public or informing policy decisions, it should come directly from NC DHHS or AppHealthCare as it is presented with appropriate context from those directly involved in public health response.***

Cumulative COVID-19 Testing in Ashe County
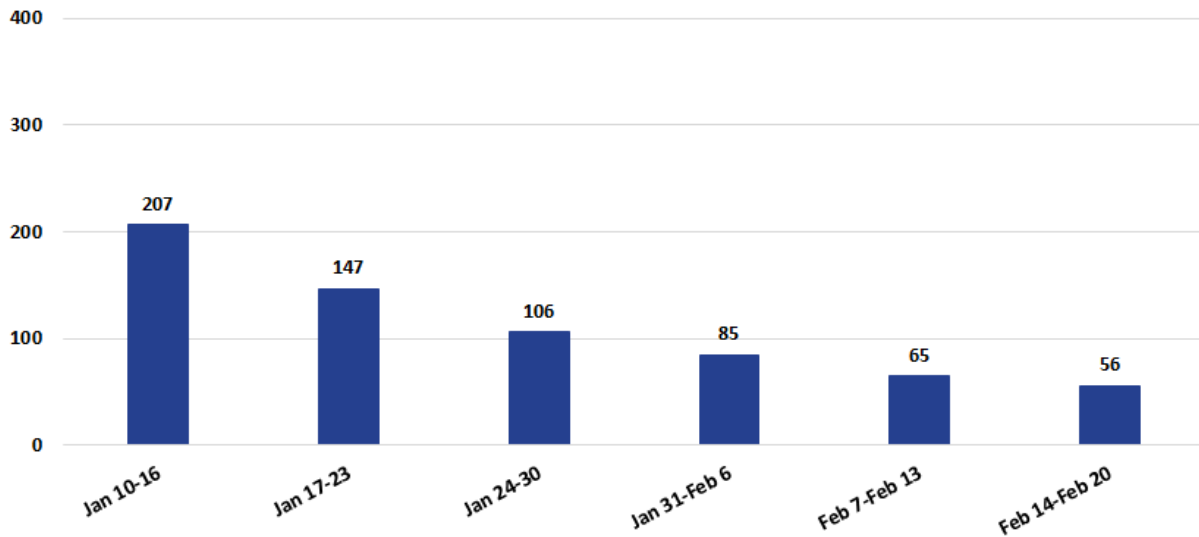**(January 10, 2021 - February 20, 2021)**

CUMULATIVE TESTING COUNT (As of 2/20/21)
22,054

Jan 10-16: Total Testing 625, AppHealthCare 105
Jan 17-23: Total Testing 557, AppHealthCare 31
Jan 24-30: Total Testing 466, AppHealthCare 11
Jan 31-Feb 6: Total Testing 524, AppHealthCare 49
Feb 7-Feb 13: Total Testing 422, AppHealthCare 29
Feb 14-Feb 20: Total Testing 331, AppHealthCare 29

■ Total Testing   ■ AppHealthCare

This graph represents the total number of COVID-19 tests that were completed by AppHealthCare and outside by week for Ashe County.

Cumulative Case Count by Week in Ashe County
(January 10, 2021 - February 20, 2021)

	110	77	58	48	40	30

300

200

100

0

Jan 10-16   Jan 17-23   Jan 24-30   Jan 31-Feb 6   Feb 7-Feb 13   Feb 14-Feb 20
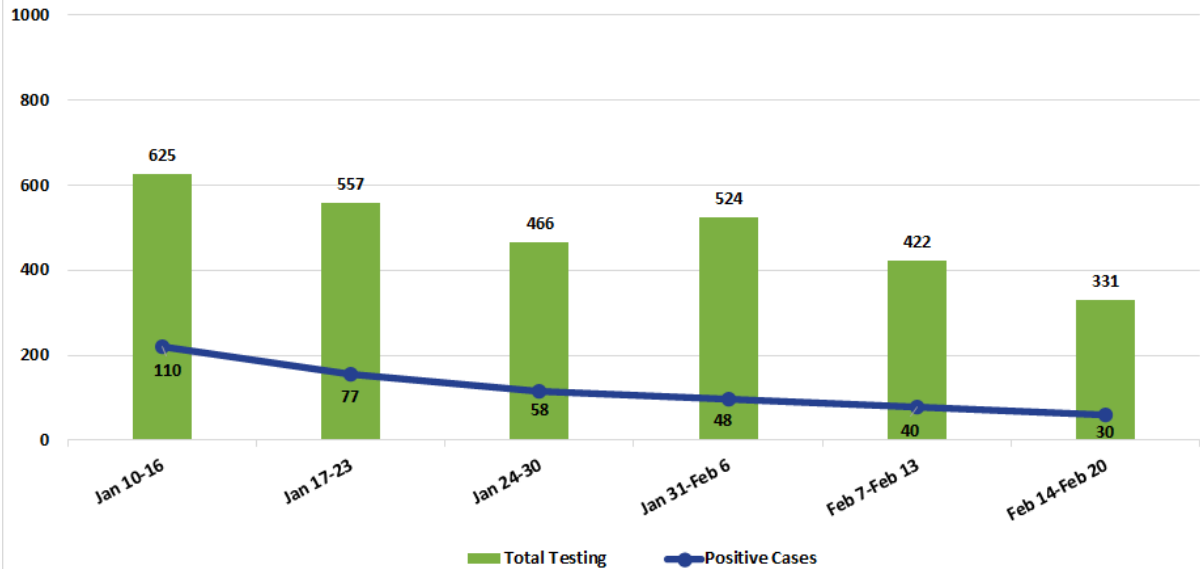
━●━ Residents   ········ Non-Residents

The solid navy blue line in this graph represents the number of positive COVID-19 cases among Ashe County residents by week. This graph also shows the number of non-residents that have tested positive for COVID-19 but reside in another county.

Number of Active Positive Cases by Week in Ashe County
(January 10, 2021 - February 20, 2021)

400

300

207

200

147

106

100

85

65

56

0

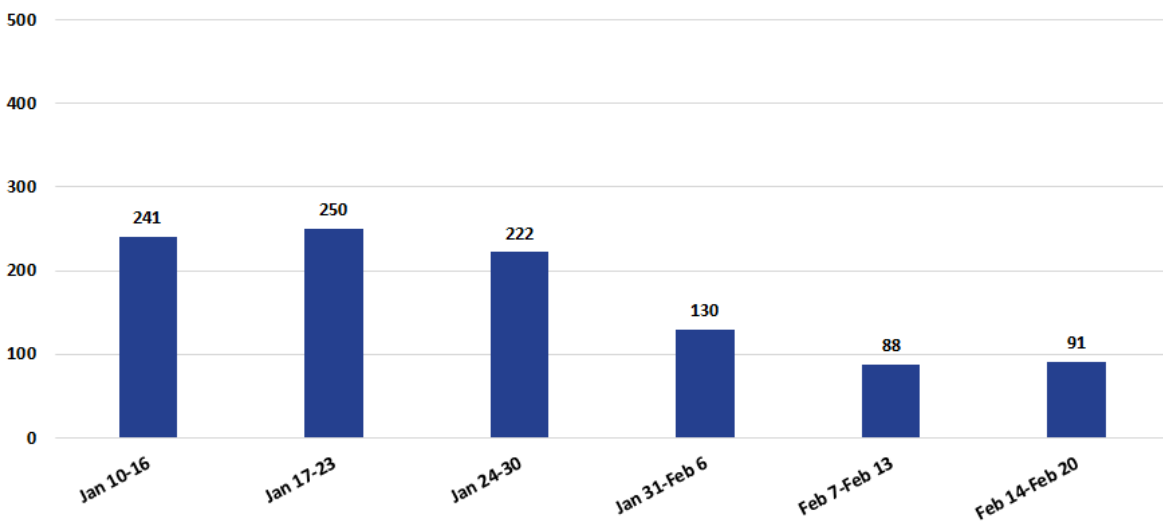Jan 10-16   Jan 17-23   Jan 24-30   Jan 31-Feb 6   Feb 7-Feb 13   Feb 14-Feb 20

The graph represents the number of active COVID-19 positive cases by week in Ashe County. A positive COVID-19 case is considered active for ten days after the initial positive test result.

Total Weekly Tests Reported vs. Weekly Positive Case Count in Ashe County
(January 10, 2021 - February 20, 2021)

This graph represents the number of COVID-19 positive cases by week in Ashe County compared to the total number of reported tests that were completed by AppHealthCare and outside agencies each week in Ashe County.

Number of People Being Actively Monitored by Week in Ashe County
(January 10, 2021 - February 20, 2021)

This graph represents the total number of Ashe County residents that AppHealthCare staff have monitored due to being exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case. Individuals are notified and asked to quarantine and monitor for symptoms for fourteen days.

Additional data can be found on AppHealthCare's data dashboard. This data is updated each day around noon.